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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19453

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1996 • TEVET 2, 5757 • 2 SHABAN, 1417

ISS 450 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

## Mother, son killed in drive-by attack

### IDF enters Ramallah, with PA, in search for terrorists

HERB KEINON  
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

BEIT EL Bet resident Etta Tzur and her 12-year-old son, Ephraim, were killed by terrorists in a drive-by shooting near Beit El last night.

Her husband, Yoel, and four other children aged four to 17 were wounded in the attack.

Following the attack the IDF exercised its right to enter Palestinian-controlled territory in such incidents and, in cooperation with the Palestinian Police, entered PA-controlled Ramallah, where a car answering the description of the attackers' vehicle was found on fire in a garbage dump.

The wounded were taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem section, where one of the children was listed in satisfactory condition, and the others in good condition. Ephraim Tzur died near the scene of the attack, while his father was trying to drive to a nearby gas station for help; his mother died on the operating table.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short his vacation in the South to visit the family at the hospital. At a press conference he confirmed that IDF troops and Israeli policemen entered Ramallah, along with the Palestinian policemen, to search for the assailants.

Netanyahu said he sent a message to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying: "We are not willing to accept that the Palestinian Authority provide cover for these murderers, and will not do everything needed, and everything it is obligated to do under the [Oslo] accords, to find



Ambulance workers help a wounded daughter of the Tzur family after her mother, Etta, and 12-year-old brother Ephraim were killed in a drive-by terrorist attack last night near Beit El. Her father, Yoel, and four siblings were wounded in the attack. (AP)



A detective points to a bullet casing on the ground next to the Tzur family's bullet-ridden car. (Reuters)

these people and bring them to justice."

Netanyahu, who said he was impressed by the spiritual strength of the family, added: "These people are part of us. We are committed to their security, and will provide them with security. Anyone who thinks they will uproot the people of Israel from its land, and from the heart of its land, by these types of terror acts, should know that we will uproot them."

The prime minister said that the manner in which the PA searches for the assailants and extradites them is a test. "We expect them to help us find these child murderers and extradite them. We will not rest until they are found," he said.

A special cabinet session is to be held today to discuss the attack, Netanyahu said.

The attack occurred on a year-old road leading from Beit El to Dolev, near the Palestinian village of Surda, on the seam between areas classified under the Oslo Accords as Areas B and C, both under Israeli jurisdiction.

An IDF source said the assailants, driving a Subaru with blue, territories license plates,

fired at the car and then fled in the direction of Ramallah.

IDF troops and Israeli policemen entered Palestinian-controlled Ramallah, but refrained from carrying out unilateral searches, opting instead to be escorted by members of the Palestinian Police.

The IDF clamped a curfew on Ramallah and the surrounding area, hoping to trap the terrorists in the city. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai instructed the IDF to "act with all the might necessary to locate and capture the murderous cell of terrorists who carried out the attack." He later visited the site of the ambush. Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Shahak were to meet late last night with Beit El residents.

Large numbers of Israeli and Palestinian security forces arrived quickly at the scene of the ambush and began coordinating efforts almost immediately, sources in the Central Command said.

"We are in the middle of the pursuit," said OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan. "The IDF reacted quickly. We are carrying out searches wherever we need to," he said.

"We have no restrictions if we have information, but you have to remember that we have hundreds of kilometers of roads here," Dayan said. "The searches were carried out around Ramallah. The moment the Palestinians started cooperating, there was no reason why we should not coordinate our entrance [into Ramallah] with them," Dayan told reporters.

Central Command sources denied, however, that Israeli forces were conducting a "hot pursuit" after the terrorists, since it was not known where the gunmen had fled.

Dayan said the Palestinians reacted "relatively quickly" to locate a car fitting the description of the one driven by the terrorists. He said it was found in a garbage dump going up in flames.

IDF troops, led by Dayan, and an Israel Police forensic unit went into Ramallah under Palestinian Police escort to examine the burning vehicle.

Israeli security officials have been warning that the situation in the territories is very tense and an attack like this was expected.

the one which killed my son. It would kill me to know that maybe this murderer may have been responsible for these new murders," said Joyce Boim.

Boim said that the suspected killer, Amjad Hannoni, was picked up by the Palestinian Authority, but has not been extradited. She said that an official extradition request was made by the government only two weeks ago.

"He is supposed to be in the custody of the Palestinian Authority, but I have my doubts," she said last night. "What kind of peace is this, if Arabs can feel free to murder our children and escape to their Oslo havens of refuge?"

Settlers in the region said last night that the road where the attack took place, which cuts driving time from Beit El to the Coastal Plain in half, has been relatively quiet. "This is the first such incident I can remember on the road," said Aliza Herbst, spokeswoman for the Benjamin Regional Council.

Bystanders said the family's blue station wagon was riddled with more than 30 bullets.

Yehuda Pinsky, deputy head of the Binyamin Regional Council, said Tzur managed to drive his car to the Beit El gas station. Avigdor Shatz, chief security officer for the Binyamin Regional Council, said emergency vehicles were at the scene in a matter of minutes.

The Tzur family is one of the veteran and leading families in Beit El Bet, said fellow resident Dov Kalmanovitz. He said Yoel Tzur is one of the managers of the Arutz 7 pirate radio station, and also one of the administrative heads of Yeshivat Beit El. Pinsky said that, in addition to the five children in the car at the time of the attack, the family has another four children.

"If Yasser Arafat does not come across now and show that Ramallah is not a city of refuge, there is nothing else to talk to him about," Pinsky said.

Kalmanovitz, who was wounded in a Palestinian attack during the early days of the intifada, said the attack shows that, "We cannot depend on anybody but ourselves to provide us with security."

## Meridor: Attacks threaten peace talks

SARAH HONIG and Itim

"We will not be able to continue the peace talks if they are accompanied by such incidents," Finance Minister Dan Meridor said last night of yesterday's drive-by shooting near Beit-El.

Meanwhile, Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres strongly condemned the attack, saying that the terrorist organizations were doing all they could to stop any chance for progress towards peace. He called on the Palestinian Authority to do all it could do to arrest those responsible and to prevent such terrible acts of murder.

Other reactions to the murder of Etta and Ephraim Tzur by Arab terrorists were largely along party lines, with the Right demanding a halt to the Oslo process, while the Left wanted it speeded up.

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman MK Uzi Landau of the Likud said that "if this premeditated cowardly murder shows anything, it is that the Oslo process is a bloody one. The PA faces three tests - to prevent terrorism, apprehend terrorists and extradite them to Israel. In the latest terrorist outrage the PA miserably failed the first test and we will see now how it fares on the remaining ones."

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan stressed that "if the latest attack offers any lesson, it is that the government must under no cir-

cumstances compromise on any detail which could compromise the personal security of Israelis. This must remain the basic consideration both so far as the interim arrangements are concerned, and no less so in the case of the final agreement."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani concluded that "Israel is still fighting for its very existence and the terrorist murders show that this struggle continues unabated despite the peace process. When it comes to security, we can rely on no one but ourselves."

However, he added that "from a pragmatic point of view I don't think that hot pursuit in Ramallah is an option...The PA police ought to seek the murderers, arrest them and deal with them severely."

Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer said the latest terrorist crime "proves how dangerous it is to deprive the IDF of freedom of action in Judea and Samaria, and how threadbare and deceitful the entire Oslo process is." He requested an urgent session of the security cabinet, and a demand that the PA extradite the murderers.

NRP Knesset faction Chairman Hanan Porat wondered "what is the point of nego-

ting with the PA over Hebron, when it does not live up to any of its undertakings and when it turns the cities handed over to it into safe havens for murderers."

He said the NRP will demand that "the Nabati outpost of Yad Yair, near the attack site, become a civilian settlement forthwith as a minimal response to the murderous outrage."

Molelet leader Rehavam Ze'evi called on the government to "stop debasing itself and endangering Israeli citizens by negotiating with the murderous gang headed by Arafat. The attack was not to act of Arafat's opponents but was commissioned by him as part of his negotiating tactic. He has long discovered that when he spills Israeli blood, he wins more concessions and more quickly. To gain at the negotiating table, he sends killers with guns to the roads."

Labor's Ehud Barak said the murders were committed by "those extreme elements which have made it their objective to fill as may Israelis as they can...Arafat must employ an iron fist against these elements for his sake and for the future of the entire region."

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh said that "it is the crisis in the talks with the Palestinians which enables terror to raise its head...The government must intensify the talks with the PA to make possible joint campaigns against terror."

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli advised the nation to "grit our teeth, wipe the tears and continue with the peace process...This is the only way peace will prevail."

Meretz MK Ruti Cohen argued that yesterday's murders should "encourage the government to vacate Hebron as soon as possible. The sooner the better."

Democratic Arab Party MK Taleb a-Sanaa said "the incident does not contribute to the furthering of peace and we must work towards peace with greater intensity and greater speed."

David Rudge adds:

Israeli Arab leaders last night denounced the attack, and called on the government and the Palestinian Authority to resolve all outstanding problems on the path to peace. "We condemn all forms of violence and especially attacks on innocent people," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads. "An attack like this only serves to undermine the peace, as well as coexistence between the two peoples."

## Mubarak: Netanyahu promised negotiating role for Moussa

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak complained yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is backtracking on a commitment to have Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa play a role in resolving the current impasse over a Hebron pull-back.

Mubarak insisted Netanyahu made the offer during a meeting with Moussa last week in Lisbon, only to change his mind due to domestic politics on returning to Jerusalem. "It's bad after you have discussed something to then go home to Israel and say statements that are against all that you agreed upon," he said.

"They want us to press (Palestinian Authority leader Yasser) Arafat to accept their proposals, whether public opinion in Palestine agreed to it or not, or whether Mr. Arafat finds it feasible or not," Mubarak said.

In a briefing for reporters a couple of days ago, Foreign Minister David Levy said Netanyahu informed Mubarak that Israel did not want Moussa to intercede in this delicate issue, believing that the end result would be more "complications" and "delays."

Last night, it remained unclear when Moussa would come and to what extent his visit would be tied to the Hebron talks.

Moussa has not visited Israel since 1994, when his reluctance to visit Yad Vashem created a controversy.

While welcoming Egyptian efforts to moderate Palestinian demands, Levy made clear he feared a precedent for future talks with the Palestinians, now that Egypt considered itself as almost an equal partner in the talks. Other senior officials voiced concern that Egypt was seeking to usurp the US' preeminent role as a mediator.

Mubarak rejected Israel's view that Egypt is not an honest broker. Furthermore, Mubarak declared, "Egypt instigated the peace process and our presence does not need permission. Egypt's role is there and you cannot live without it," he said.

Within a few hours of Mubarak's comments, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement that Netanyahu was dispatching foreign policy adviser Doron Gold today to Cairo to "prepare the visit of Foreign Minister Moussa to Israel."

## US industrialist gives \$30m. to Technion

JUDY SIEGEL

A 74-YEAR-OLD US industrialist is making one of the largest single donations ever to an Israeli university. The \$30 million gift from William Davidson will be used by the Haifa Technion to establish the world's first comprehensive business school for training managers to lead international technology-based industries.

Technion president Prof. Zehev Tadmor, who announced the donation yesterday, said the Davidson School will "help us harness Israel's vast technological capacity to foster economic growth through targeted management education and research."

It will be named in honor of

Davidson, president and chief executive of Guardian Industries Corp. of Auburn Hills, Michigan. The donation is the largest gift ever secured by the American Technion Society, the Technion's friends group in the US.

"The school's mission will be to provide management skills for both recent graduates and experienced executives with strong science and engineering backgrounds. The focus will be on management training for technology-based, export-oriented businesses competing in global markets."

"It will integrate technology and management in conjunction with the Technion's 19 science, architecture, technology, town-planning and medical facilities. It will incorporate the existing Faculty of

the lab into successes in the global marketplace. From my 40 years' experience doing business in Israel and actively investing in its high-tech and finance sector, I believe that technology-based industry represents a tremendous opportunity...to attract foreign capital and, in turn, enhance its long-term economic security."

Israel Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said it was vital to provide high-tech industrialists with engineers having top-level management skills. "It will fill a large void, providing much-needed personnel for senior management positions," he said.

NEW YORK - US Stocks fell sharply yesterday as a big increase in interest rates sparked worries the market may be starting a long retreat from record high levels.

At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 70.73 points at 6,402.52, after earlier falling as much as 120 points.

With the exception of some technology stocks, the sell-off was broad based, hitting blue chips as well. Declining issues outnumbered gainers by a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

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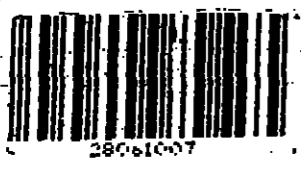
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# Ras al-Amud approval not automatic

THE decision to establish a Jewish neighborhood in Ras al-Amud is not automatic, because Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will either personally review plans or bring the issue before the cabinet, senior officials said last night.

DAVID MAKOVSKY, HERB KEINON and LIAT COLLINS

Interior Minister Eli Shalev qualified himself from reviewing the project. As head of the planning committee, Shalev had been instrumental in the plan passing through various earlier stages. Seidemann said it has not yet been determined which minister will now review the project, but it will likely be Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai. Yishai also is reviewing plans for a new neighborhood in Jerusalem's Har Homa, since Shalev also disqualified himself from reviewing that project.

several Arab and left-wing MKs to the decision to open the Western Wall Tunnel. That move sparked lethal Palestinian riots. In a raucous Knesset hearing on the issue yesterday, MK Walid Sadek (Meretz) said the government was acting against all logic and, instead of calming the situation, had taken a decision "that would undoubtedly bring about dangerous crises between the Jewish and Arab populations. On the one hand, the government is delaying construction in east Jerusalem and on the other it is encouraging Jewish building in the very heart of an Arab neighborhood."



Foreign Minister David Levy (right) greets Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muasher in Jerusalem yesterday. (Orian Sender)

# Man indicted as KGB spy

RAINE MARCUS

THE police acting with the General Security Service recently arrested Anatoly Gendler, an Israeli citizen who immigrated here 16 years ago from the former Soviet Union, on suspicion of spying for the KGB and its successor, the SVR.

ous training by the KGB. Over the years he allegedly transferred much sensitive, classified information to his operators. The GSS received intelligence information on his alleged activities and gave him ample opportunity to admit his involvement, questioning him on several occasions and keeping him under surveillance. But Gendler consistently denied any connection to his Russian operators, who were apparently satisfied with his work. Police said he received regular payments amounting to tens of thousands of dollars for his services, and met with his operators from time to time.

# Amman envoy raps Ras al-Amud plan

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN AND DAVID MAKOVSKY

JORDANIAN Information Minister Marwan Muasher voiced opposition yesterday to plans for a Jewish neighborhood in the Ras al-Amud section of Jerusalem.

also to Jordan. Muasher also condemned the attack on settlers near Beit El as "barbaric" and "cowardly."

Muasher and Levy spoke of cooperation and the strengthening of ties. Muasher invited the foreign minister to visit Jordan. Some believe Levy may visit as soon as next week.

intention of setting up new settlements. Meeting at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Mordechai told the Jordanian minister that Israel was interested in advancing the peace process with the Palestinians, but added he did not understand PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's unwillingness to close a deal on the redeployment in Hebron, defense sources said.

monarch's sense that the peace process must continue. "Peace between Israel and Jordan has strategic importance and everything must be done in order for this peace to be a warm and close peace between two nations," Mordechai said.

# Two Palestinians found guilty in London bombings

LONDON (Reuters) - Two Palestinians were convicted at the Old Bailey court yesterday of plotting bomb attacks against Jewish targets in London, one of which badly damaged the Israeli embassy in 1994.

Patrick Gardard, told the jury in summing up the two-month trial. Botneh, 28, and Alami, 30, were part of a Palestinian guerrilla cell in Britain, prosecutor David Calvert-Smith said. Police traced the pair after finding a cache of arms and bomb ingredients in a safe deposit box. The three defendants denied the charges. Calvert-Smith said a third bomber may never be brought to justice. He said Botneh and Alami had enlisted the services of "a respectable, middle-aged woman" to plant the bomb outside the Israeli embassy, which neighbors Kensington Palace, in June 1994.

# NRP threatens coalition crisis over Sabbath arrest of Arnon

HERB KEINON

THE National Religious Party threatened a coalition crisis yesterday after Interior Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani failed to take steps they thought necessary in light of the Shabbat arrest of Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon.

minister may decide to fire me, but if that happens the sky will not fall. As long as I hold this position, I will make arrests for this type of thing. I will arrest everyone who attacks a policeman."

was observant or secular. Interrogations should also not take place on Shabbat, he said. NRP director-general Zevulun Orlev said that he was "disappointed" by Kahalani's reaction, adding it should have been much more forceful.

# Meridor, Sharon join Hebron cabinet clique

SARAH HONG

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will from now on include two more ministers in his regular consultations on Hebron - Finance Minister Dan Meridor and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

hence, to argue now that the kitchen was broadened." "Netanyahu up to now consulted regularly with Mordechai and Levy, and will probably call on Sharon and Meridor to take part in these consultations and that's all there is to it no drama."

# MK Tarif: Arab families say requests for reunification are not being handled

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET Interior Committee Chairman Salih Tarif (Labor) yesterday said the committee had received numerous complaints from Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem who claim their requests for family reunification are not being dealt with.

that since May, 55 families had been forced to leave the country against their will. "We're the owners of Jerusalem and we won't agree to be recognized only as tourists," he said.

Ministry representatives said Israel is considered an attractive country to live in, and the ministry has to cope with the growing phenomenon of marriages carried out for immigration purposes. They denied a policy of discrimination against Arabs, and noted that the ministry had won in each case appealed in the Supreme Court.

# Three-year-old boy run over

A three-year-old boy from the Gaza District was struck and killed by a car in Nahalat Yehuda, north of Rishon LeZion, yesterday, after he ran into the street from between parked cars to get to his mother

on the other side. The boy was in Nahalat Yehuda to visit his sister, who lives there. He died on the way to the hospital. Police launched an investigation.

# Bronfman questions Swiss review of Holocaust assets

MARILYN HENRY WASHINGTON

THE main review of Holocaust-era assets in Switzerland came under assault in the US Congress yesterday by the head of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, who questioned the sincerity of the Swiss.

the issue, Volcker said, "I cannot conceive of another approach that can over better prospects for reaching a successful conclusion in a shorter period of time."

# Golan leaders denounce FM words on Heights compromise

DAVID RUDGE

LEADERS of Golan Heights Jewish communities yesterday denounced remarks by Foreign Minister David Levy in support of a compromise on the Golan in talks with Syria.

stance contradicted the government's guidelines regarding the Golan, which reiterated in the letter to Netanyahu.

# Saudis reportedly won't drop boycott

CAIRO (AP) - Despite US pressure, Saudi Arabia has reportedly refused to drop its boycott of Israel.

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Yahalom: Charge judge said to have insulted haredim... Women of... Give for...

# Yahalom: Charge judge said to have insulted haredim

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) plans to ask Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to take disciplinary action against a Beersheba judge who allegedly made insulting remarks about the haredim.

Judge Oded Alyagon, president of the Beersheba Magistrate's Court, was quoted as saying "We have become a target for parasites to whom ideas such as the rule of law are utterly alien. These people, who have never contributed a jot to the country, have set themselves the goal of seizing control of the legal system, or intimidating it, so that they can continue to milk the state's resources without disturbance."

The remarks are alleged to have been made at a farewell party for a retiring judge at the end of August.

A motion by MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) on the subject was transferred to the Law Committee for discussion. The committee meeting is to take place soon.

Yahalom announced yesterday, however, that he plans to use the meeting to ask Hanegbi to file disciplinary charges against Alyagon for behavior not befitting a judge.

Yahalom said such statements by a judge undermined the public's faith in the judiciary, and therefore, the entire democratic system.

He said he considered the issue so serious he met with Supreme Court President Aharon Barak about it Tuesday. Barak told him he considered Alyagon's statement extremely grave and had reprimanded him orally and in writing. As the head of the judiciary, Barak said he considered himself personally injured by Alyagon's words, according to Yahalom.

Barak said he considered his reprimand punishment enough for Alyagon, Yahalom said. But in any case the only person with authority to file disciplinary charges is the justice minister, he said.

Committee member and former chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) protested Yahalom's plans to request a disciplinary hearing. It is unprecedented for a parliamentary committee to recommend disciplinary proceedings against a judge, he said, and sets a "dangerous precedent of politicizing the judicial system."



Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) opens the annual Magen David Adom blood drive in the Knesset yesterday. (Israel Hareizi)

# MK Massale attacks House blood drive

LIAT COLLINS and JUDY SIEGEL

MK Adisu Massale (Labor) decided at the last moment not to donate blood yesterday, during the annual Magen David Adom blood drive in the Knesset, when he was told his blood would be frozen for later testing, because he is of Ethiopian origin and in a high-risk category.

By chance the Massale met Health Minister Yehoshua Matza (Likud) who was also giving blood and told him: "I came to donate blood. For years Magen David Adom and the Health Ministry threw the blood of mem-

bers of the Ethiopian community into the garbage. This is your test today, what you do with my blood."

Matza assured him that the only consideration in using his blood would be the public's health. "If your blood is found to be unfit for use, it won't be used; if it's found fit, it will be used," Massale, however, refused to be calmed.

He accused the ministry of failing to adopt the recommendations

of the Navon Commission, formed after violent demonstrations by Ethiopian immigrants after they learned their donated blood was being discarded. The commission recommended in July that blood should not be taken from anyone who spent at least six months during the past 10 years in any of 63 AIDS-afflicted countries. This and other recommendations have not yet been implemented by the ministry, which says it is still consid-

ering them.

Massale grew particularly upset when he read the clause on the donors' questionnaire which asks about country of birth. "This is exactly the problem," he said. "I can't say I came from Sweden, but I immigrated 16 years ago and you have turned all Ethiopian immigrants into one big case of AIDS."

He continued to complain after filling out the forms, telling the blood bank director that he does not trust the service, because he was lied to in the past.

# Clalit strike averted

JUDY SIEGEL

A 24-HOUR warning strike scheduled for today in Kupat Holim Clalit's hospitals and community clinics was called off after the two sides met in the Tel Aviv regional labor court yesterday.

The strike by 30,000 nurses, pharmacists and administrative and maintenance workers was to have been a protest against the health fund management's plans to replace regular staffers with temporary workers from outside in a variety of services, including the supply of medications. It had been approved by the Histadrut after a

labor dispute was declared.

The health fund's management and the unions agreed to sit down and try to resolve their disagreements. In the labor court, management agreed that new Clalit pharmacies would not open without union approval. In addition, management admitted that the deal it had reached regarding the supply of medications had violated previous agreements with Clalit pharmacists. The union would be informed before any additional efficiency moves are made, management said.

# Amit stepping down as J'lem police chief

JERUSALEM police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit is to leave his post in March, after three years in the post. Amit informed Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani of his decision yesterday. One of the candidates to replace him is Southern District chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki.

Amit plans to first spend three months studying at Harvard University. He refused to be interviewed about the matter, but senior police sources said that when he returns in the summer, he will be a candidate for Inspector-General. If he fails to land that post, he is likely to pursue a career in private business.

Cmdr. Gabi Last was recently made deputy inspector-general, meaning he is the most likely candidate for the inspector-general's post, this despite Kahalani's saying this was not necessarily the case.

Southern District police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki has been mentioned as the most likely candidate to replace Amit. (Tum)

# Finance panel unhappy with budget cuts

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Finance Committee members left a meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday convinced that an NIS 6.7 billion budget cut is needed, but still unconvinced that the cuts Meridor has proposed are the right way to achieve this goal.

Meridor said he gave the committee the same economic analysis he gave the cabinet this week.

"I hope they were convinced," he said. "From now on, the critical arena is here... The responsibility falls largely on these MKs, and I expect them to demonstrate the same responsibility that the cabinet did."

Meridor said he told the MKs that they were mistaken if they thought economic laws applied only in university, and had no impact in the real world. It was precisely this thinking that led to the economic crisis of the early 1980s, which ultimately demanded much harsher measures to correct, he said.

He also said the MKs were mistaken if they thought headline-making threats were the way to gain popularity. The public admires responsible behavior more than populism in its leaders, he said.

"Coalition MKs must adjust quickly to the fact that they are no longer sitting on the opposition benches, just as opposition MKs have adjusted to the fact that they are no longer in the coalition," he concluded.

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said he had been very impressed with Meridor's presentation, and that no one looking at that data could not reach the same conclusion Meridor did: That a NIS 6.7b. cut was needed.

"I don't think there was a single MK who left not thinking a cut was necessary," he said. "We have an overdraft, and we need to cover it, precisely so that the lower classes won't be hurt [by the economic collapse which will ensue if the problem is not addressed]."

Nevertheless, he said, there was no way to pass the budget without changing two items: Cuts in child allowances and payments for doctors' visits.

"I'm not even sure [those who

oppose these items] are completely correct," he said. "But when can you do? They have become a populist issue, and there will be changes in them."

Ravitz said he thinks Meridor understands this, and that a compromise will be reached in time to pass the budget by December 31.

Michael Kleiner (Gesher) reacted similarly.

"I was convinced that we need a NIS 7b. cut," he said. "But I still think we need to take from those who have rather than from those who do not. To my sorrow, there is still direct injury to the lower classes [in this budget]."

Kleiner said he was referring mainly to the cuts in child allowances and payments for doctors' visits, which were part of the original budget proposal. Since the details of the additional cut approved by the cabinet this week have not yet been worked out, he does not yet know how he feels about them, he said.

Unlike most members of the social caucus, Kleiner said he agrees with Meridor that it would be a mistake to raise employers' national insurance payments, as this would discourage employment. Instead, he advocates an increase in value-added tax, which would have the desirable side effect of curbing consumption.

"In contrast to the traditional view that [VAT] is a regressive tax, I think it's a progressive tax, since those who spend more, pay more," he said. Opposition MKs also attacked the budget proposal.

"[Meridor's] proposal contains no solutions to the economic problems, and carries a heavy social price to boot," said Haim Oron (Meretz).

Avraham Shohar (Labor) noted that none of the major problems, such as child allowances and payments for doctors' visits, have yet been worked out, and the vote is less than three weeks away.

"I don't see how the government can end with the same budget it submitted," he said. "In my estimation, the budget will pass, but not the way it is now. There will be very significant changes."

In other news, the religious caucus met yesterday to demand an additional NIS 300 million for religious issues in the 1997 budget.

# 'Women of the Wall harass men'

HAIM SHAPIRO

POSTERS addressed "to our Jewish sisters" greeted the Women of the Wall at their Rosh Hodesh prayers yesterday. The posters said Judaism does not condone sexual harassment, but added that an immodestly dressed woman who prays aloud near a man is guilty of harassing him.

Last month, when the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform women's group came to the Western Wall to recite their prayers at the beginning of the Hebrew month, they were met by a group of haredi men who threw chairs and benches at them. The violence had apparently been organized, following reports MK Yael Dayan (Labor) would amend.

"The Jewish definition of harassment includes not exposing to our view any part of you that you wouldn't want a stranger to touch," the posters said. "It also says that a man is forbidden to pray - whether aware of it or not - in front of such exposure. Your voice is an intimate part of you too, and so prayer is forbidden to the Jewish man if any female voice is to be heard."

The women's prayer service at the Wall yesterday went off without incident. The posters, which were written in English, lined the route the women normally take from the Wall, where they recite the morning

prayers, to a site in the Jewish Quarter where they read from a Torah scroll.

The poster went on to describe the prayer of Hannah (from Samuel I 1:13) as the prototype of all Jewish prayer, stressing that Hannah prayed silently. The poster exhorted other women to do likewise.

Jerusalem municipal councilwoman Anat Hoffman, an active member of the Women of the Wall, said she well remembers the prayer of Hannah - and she said she also remembers the reaction of the religious establishment to Hannah and her prayer at the time. The biblical account tells that Eli, the high priest, thought Hannah was drunk.

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THE JERUSALEM POST International Edition

Russia opposes NATO expansion, but agrees to talk UN says Burundi army killed 1,100 in 2 months

RUSSIA said yesterday that NATO expansion into central and eastern Europe is a bad idea, but that won't stop it from joining a dialogue with the Western alliance on building a new security relationship.

JEFFREY ULBRICH BRUSSELS

"I think this paves the way for very constructive negotiations," he said. "But at the same time I would like to underline that while agreeing to continue these consultations we continue to be against NATO enlargement. This is based on the firm belief that the enlargement of NATO will inevitably lead to a new division of Europe."

ations before the July summit.

"The important thing is to get a document that has not only principle but content and commitment on one part and the other," he said. Primakov agreed, saying Russia wanted a document "which really contains very specific, very concrete provisions which deal with our concerns."

GENEVA (Reuters) - The UN issued evidence yesterday that Burundi's army had killed at least 1,100 people in two months, including hundreds of Hutu refugees, and urged the country's Tutsi leaders to stop the bloodshed.

"I appeal to the authorities and all parties to assure maximum respect for rights and fundamental freedoms to put an end to killings, arbitrary arrests, destruction of property," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso said in a statement.

The UN human rights office in Geneva, in reports based on its investigations and eyewitness testimony, said the killings by the army had taken place in October and November.

The biggest was when troops massacred between 200 and 400 Hutu returnees and wounded 200 others with bullets and grenades in a church in Murambi village in northwestern Cibitoke.

Ayala Lasso also appealed urgently for funds to boost his cash-strapped office in the tiny central African country, where at least 150,000 people have died in three years of ethnic war.

"I am deeply disturbed by the deteriorating human rights situation in Burundi," he said. The report by his office listed almost daily massacres of teachers, students, women and babies. Hutu rebels battling the army also killed scores of civilians, it said.

it said.

It warned that an already alarming situation had been made worse by the mass influx of more than 50,000 Burundian Hutu refugees who fled an ethnic Tutsi rebellion in eastern Zaire.

The UN human rights office said killings, disappearances and arbitrary arrests have risen sharply since the influx began.

It said civilians were bearing the brunt of increasingly explosive confrontations between troops and rebels, with Hutu guerrillas using mortars and the army striking with planes.

"The human rights situation in November could be described as alarming with massacres, arbitrary arrests, pillage and destruction of property perpetrated by the two sides," it said.

Diplomats report a big increase in killings by the army since it grabbed power in a military coup in June.

Minority Tutsis in Burundi are outnumbered four-to-one by Hutus. Extremist Tutsis say that for every Tutsi killed, 10 Hutus must be killed in revenge.

The army denies it is killing Hutus. The UN human rights office said it was not in a position to verify every single one of the massacres because it was too dangerous to travel to many parts of the mountainous country.

Unions join Serbian demos against Milosevic

BELGRADE (Reuters) - An organized group of workers joined street protests against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday for the first time since marches began 24 days ago, independent trade union leaders said.

Leaders of the association of independent trade unions said some 10,000 workers had been taking part in daily student and opposition rallies after the annulment of opposition local election victories by Milosevic's ruling socialists.

"We were also here before (as individuals) but for the first time today we are here in an organized way," association president Rade Radovanovic told Reuters.

Thousands of workers marched behind a trade union banner in a show of unity that Radovanovic earlier said would shake Milosevic and his deputies.

The West has supported demonstrations by up to 150,000 people a day in Belgrade but the mainly middle class protesters have failed to attract significant support from workers.

Independent unions claimed some of their 40,000 members in Belgrade had begun strike action



Prime Minister John Major looks at the new Downing Street Internet web site with schoolchildren in Uxbridge yesterday. The site, featuring an image of the famous front door and policeman, contains historical notes, tours around the state rooms and updates on legislation currently in passage through parliament.

Report: JFK's mistress Judith Exner aborted her child

NEW YORK (AP) - Judith Campbell Exner, a reputed mistress of President John F. Kennedy, says in January's issue of Vanity Fair magazine that she aborted her child 10 months before Kennedy was assassinated.

Kennedy asked Exner if she wanted to have the baby, and then urged her to have Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana arrange for an illegal abortion.

Exner aborted her 1977 autobiography, My Story, because "I was afraid for my life." Exner also said in the interview that she was Giancana's lover during Kennedy's presidency, and carried messages between the president and the gangster, including details of a plot to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

French police release all the bombing suspects arrested Tuesday

PARIS (AP) - Police yesterday released the last of 14 people arrested in connection to a 1995 bombing wave and confirmed the roundup had no connection to last week's deadly subway attack.

Authorities overnight held two of those arrested by anti-terrorist police in Tuesday's raids in and around Paris, but let them go Wednesday morning. No explanation was given for the release.

Tourist photo may give FBI clue to Olympic blast

ATLANTA (AP) - A man says he has given the FBI a photograph of someone wearing a military-style backpack similar to the one that carried a deadly bomb into Centennial Olympic Park last summer.

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Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9577. CIRCULATION— 02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING— 02-531-5608,  
02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-9408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamassger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277.  
HAIFA 20 Nardau, Haifa Hacamel, Telephone 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturdays, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine  
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## No refuge for murderers

**T**HAT the IDF exercised its right to enter Palestinian-controlled territory following last night's deadly drive-by shooting near Beit El is an important first step in changing the norms of behavior after a terrorist attack. Until now, Palestinian terrorists have felt they can enter Israel, carry out their cowardly attacks — opening fire on an innocent family driving home can hardly be described as a daring military assault — and then return to the safety of an area controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Once inside Area A (the PA-controlled area of Judea and Samaria), the terrorists could feel certain no one would come searching too seriously for them.

Rabin wrong, at the cost of scores of innocent Israeli lives. It took serious pressure on Israel's part, including a prolonged closure of the territories, to persuade Arafat that he should move against the Islamic militants. The arrests he made were very much a case of too little, too late, and came amid reports of the PA easing its clampdown on potential terrorist groups.

## Nothing to cheer about

**I**N Baghdad, Iraqi crowds danced in the streets to celebrate the partial lifting of United Nations sanctions on the country's oil sales. There was something surreal about the appearance of Saddam Hussein and his cronies before the crowds, taking credit for this new "mother of all victories," while the crowds seemed oblivious to the fact that the dictator and warmonger responsible for their years of suffering was the very man they were cheering. The rest of the world would be wise to adopt a more cynical and cautious attitude — more like that of a wise old cop faced with the release of an incorrigible recidivist, than that of an eager-beaver social worker gullibly assured that the old rogue has reformed.

Iraq's poor innocents under sanctions, they have been less than vocal about the reconstructed palaces and hedonistic lifestyles of the repulsive Saddam regime. Now the same naive voices are raised in hope that the oil deal signals the end of all sanctions against Iraq.



## Two-faced French

**W**hat happened last week at a formal meeting in Lisbon, where European leaders had gathered to discuss security problems facing the West.

**URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG**

Why is there terrorism in France today? The French allowed millions of North Africans to emigrate to France to provide cheap labor. Its diplomats never grasped the reality: France may have left Algeria, but Algeria hasn't left France.

## Street wisdom

**LARRY DERFNER**  
**A**NYONE who wants to grasp the killjoy mentality of Israeli conservatives should visit Sheinkin Street in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The street was crowded, and I don't like crowds, and I don't like demonstratively cool people; but this, I had to admit, was great. Why?

## Sheinkin is a model of what a bustling urban thoroughfare should be

Steinkin is a block-long park with swings, rides and sandboxes, and it is always filled with kids. There's a roving band of local nannies, grandmothers most of them, who bring their charges to play here everyday.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**THOMAS FRIEDMAN**  
Sir, — As a regular reader of, and occasional contributor to the Eye on the Media column for as long as it was in existence, I was surprised (to put it mildly) to find that the ADL should have chosen Thomas Friedman to speak at one of its functions ("Anti-Defamation League defamed?", December 6).

releasing the 700 or so terrorists whose freedom the hijackers had demanded. Israel's refusal, he claimed, contributed to the hijacking as certainly as a victim's body contributes to rape or murder.

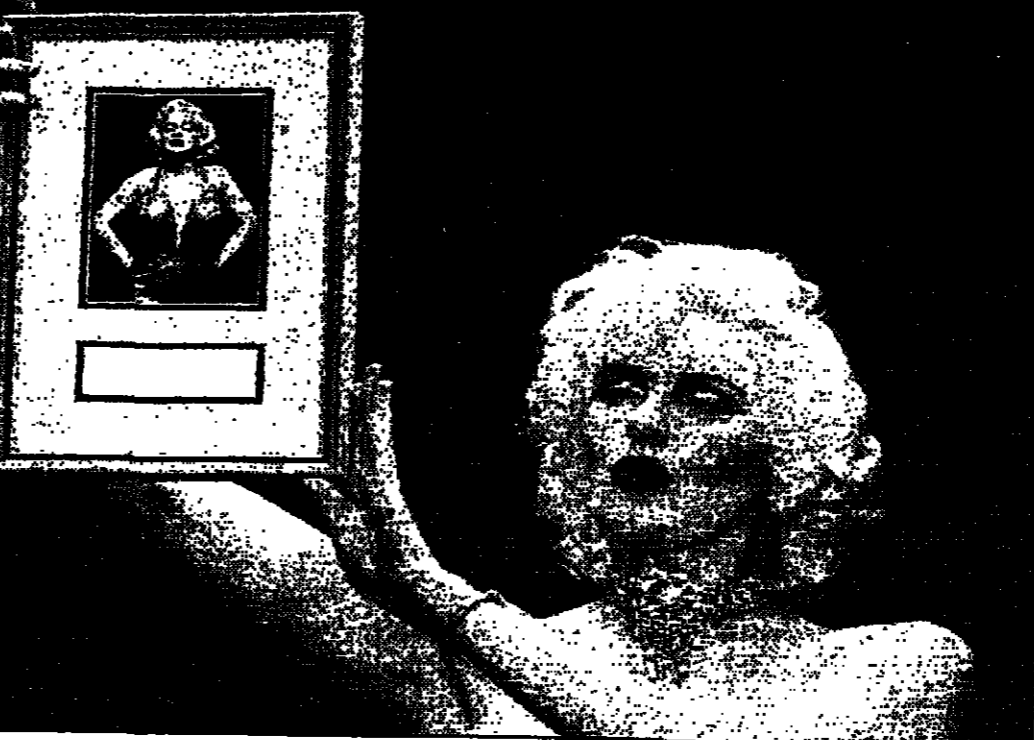
**RUTH WILLERS**  
Wembley Park, Middx.

**COMPUTER CLOSET**  
bar mitzvas and the like.

**AKIVA AND GILA ATWOOD**  
Jerusalem.

twice as much as ordinary TV cards. As for use of video among haredim, there are many haredi rabbis who denounce the use of videos, even for recording family events, for fear that the machine will be used to watch "forbidden" films.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



A Marilyn Monroe look-alike displays a photo of Marilyn Monroe as it was auctioned recently at Sotheby's in London. The photo sold for 402 pounds sterling in an auction of Rock 'n' Roll and film memorabilia.

**MANY** haredim live on the side streets off Sheinkin. They pass alongside the girls in their tight paisley bell-bottoms and no one bothers anybody.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.



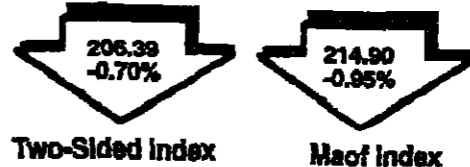




Shares decline on US woes, led by exporters

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCK indexes fell as world stock and bond markets dropped and the US dollar fell against major currencies.

Concern that Japanese investors will pull their cash out of the US sent US Treasury bonds tumbling. Stock indexes in France, Germany and the UK fell as much as 1.6 percent, following a plunge in bonds and US stocks.

In Tel Aviv, the Maof index fell 0.95% to 214.90 and the Two-sided index fell 0.70% to 206.39. The general bond index rose 0.11%.

Of 973 shares trading across the exchange, nearly twice as many shares rose as fell. Some NIS 105.4 million of shares changed hands, NIS 7.9m. below Tuesday's level.

Israeli companies whose shares also trade in New York led stocks lower in Tel Aviv, with Koor Industries Ltd. falling 1.25% and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. declining 1%.

Koor's American depository receipts were down 1/4 at 16 7/8 in early trading in New York. Teva's ADRs were down 3/4 at 46 1/4.

"After losses in Europe, there's the fear there will be losses here, too," said Avi Meir, investment manager at Israeli General Bank in Tel Aviv. "There's particular concern about the dollar going down."

A weak dollar hurts exporters, because they earn dollars and pay expenses in shekels. More than half of Israel's biggest companies get the lion's share of their profits from exports.

Chemical exporters on the Maof index sank. Israel Chemical Ltd. fell 1.75%; Maktreshim Chemical Works and Dead Sea Works fell 1.25%, and Dead Sea Bromine fell 0.5%.

Other declining shares included Bezeq Ltd., which dropped 2%. A ministerial report Tuesday recommended opening the local communications business to competition no later than January 1999. (Bloomberg)

Eurobourses slip on Wall Street worries

World Market Roundup

LONDON (Reuters) - A fresh bout of record-breaking news could be faltering depressed share prices worldwide yesterday and undermined the dollar.

Reviving fears of the red ink that washed over markets late last week, Wall Street, the world's biggest stock exchange, opened with pronounced losses. Market participants have fretted that the Dow, which has advanced by nearly a third this year, could be headed for a major correction.

The FTSE 100 index of blue-chip stocks in London, Europe's leading stock market, lost more than 70 points on one stage yesterday but ended down just over 50, or 1.3%.

The Paris bourse finished around 1.7% lower, while Frankfurt was down about 1.9% in late computerized trading amid investor concern that Wall Street might be facing a major correction.

In two days of recovery in share prices on Monday and Tuesday, stocks had clawed their way back from sharp losses at the end of last week after remarks by US central bank chief Alan Greenspan on the "irrational exuberance" of Wall Street.

"In other news," the Bank of England signalled no change in official interest rates yesterday after a monthly monetary policy meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke and Bank of England Gov. Eddie George.

The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended 53.2 points lower at 3,982.5. The 30-share DAX index in Frankfurt closed bourse floor-trading down 49.95 at 2,841.05 and was at 2,836.36 in late computerized trade. In Paris, the CAC-40 index ended down 38.12 at 2,213.28.

Dow drops on fears of sustained pullback

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell sharply yesterday as a big runup in interest rates sparked worries that the market may be beginning a sustained retreat from record high levels.

At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 70.73 at 6,402.52, recovering from the day's worst loss of 120 points.

With the exception of some technology stocks, the sell-off was broad based, hitting blue chips as well as secondary issues. Declining issues outnumbered advancing by a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 524 up, 2,148 down and 668 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 494.19 million shares vs. 446.80 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 6.81 to 740.73, and the NYSE's composite index fell 4.36 to 389.54.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 3.42 to 1,309.13, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index declined 6.87 to 583.92.

Stocks opened lower and stayed under water all day as the bond market sustained dramatic losses.

LONDON (AP) - The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was down more than 1 11-16 points late in the day, its yield, which rises when prices fall, was 6.62 percent, up from 6.49% late Tuesday.

The strength of the bond market, where interest rates have fallen sharply in recent months, has been an important factor in the stock market's powerful recovery from July's sell-off.

Bond tumbled after yesterday's Wall Street Journal noted mounting fears that Japanese investors might slow their purchases of US Treasury bonds.

Investors in Japan might cut back in response to a rise in the dollar, which makes US investments more expensive for them, and slow growth in their own economy.

The worries were compounded by a government report that inflation at the wholesale level jumped 0.4% last month.

Stock investors were still smarting from a drop last Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said he thought stocks were being pushed inappropriately to record levels by investors' "irrational exuberance."

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Rows include R, MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices categorized by Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, Chicago, London, Frankfurt, and others.

Source: Reuters, Bloomberg, and other financial news agencies.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark against NIS.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes like FTSE 100, Singapore, and Nikkei.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US market.

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC

Table of NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and OTC stock prices.

NEW YORK MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for different categories.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Text providing contact information for CommStock Trading Ltd.

NEW YORK COMMODITIES

Table of New York commodity prices.

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fix prices.

Source: Reuters, Bloomberg, and other financial news agencies.





